

Threat limits access to school

High school students' backpacks banned

By GateHouse News Service

There was an increased police presence at the Duxbury schools Tuesday after a written threat was found on a wall at the high school.

Duxbury High School students were not be allowed to bring backpacks into the school building and had to carry necessary belongings in clear plastic bags.

School Superintendent Susan Skeiber said a message "of a threatening nature" was found on Monday. She did not specify what the message said.

"While this message was non-specific and vague, it is being taken seriously by all concerned," Skeiber said in a message to parents Tuesday. "For the safety of all our students in the complex, there will be an additional police presence in and around the schools for the day."

Administrators said after they found the threatening message, they contacted the police and assembled the high school crisis team.

After school, the building was searched by a police dog. The high school canceled all after-school activities in the building.

Skeiber said Duxbury High School Principal Andrew Stephens contacted the families of students in the district to make them aware of the threat.

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Duxbury High School Principal
Andrew Stephens

On Tuesday and Wednesday, entry to the high school was limited to only the high school lobby entrance. Students and staff had to go through a checkpoint set up by the Duxbury police.

All students had to enter the school at the lobby doors, including students who drive and students with musical instruments. All other entrances to the school were locked.

"Any time threats of this nature occur, we take it seriously because the safety of our students and staff are of paramount concern to us," Stephens said in the message to high school parents. "I apologize for the inconvenience to you and your child, however, the safety and security of our students and staff is our main concern."

Skeiber, Stephens and Duxbury Police Lt. Lewis Chubb could not be reached for further comment Wednesday before the Duxbury Reporter's deadline.